



2011

# **Go And Make Disciples**

**The Cross and Beyond**

## **Lesson 27:**

**Jesus Heals a  
Centurion's Servant**

**Scripture**

Matthew 8:1-13  
 Luke 7:1-10

**Memory Verse**

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

**Lesson Goals**

Understand that the Roman commander had strong faith.

Understand that faith is not something you can see.

Understand that faith is confidence in the person of Jesus Christ.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Who remembers what we talked about in our last lesson? Let me help you out! Jesus healed many people. He called Matthew to follow Him. He even appointed the twelve disciples who would walk with Him a little more closely than the others. Many people were following Jesus, so He went up onto the side of a mountain and taught the people. What kinds of things did Jesus teach? (how to be satisfied even when life is difficult, how to trust in God for the things we need instead of worrying, how to pray, etc.) With all of those lessons, Jesus was saying that our relationship with Him is so much more important than a list of rules we try to keep.

Jesus finished teaching the people. He came down from the mountain and He went into the city of Capernaum. Crowds continued to follow Him.

When Jesus entered Capernaum, some men came to Him with a special request. You see, there was a Roman commander [centurion] who had a servant he cared about very much. The servant was sick. In fact, the servant was about to die. When the commander heard about Jesus, he sent these men to talk to Jesus for him. He sent these men because they were Jewish and Jesus was Jewish. The Roman commander wasn't Jewish, though. These Jewish men begged Jesus, "This man deserves to have you do this. He loves our nation and has built our synagogue." (Luke 7:4 NirV)

Jesus went with them, but when they were almost at the commander's house, he sent some friends out to meet Jesus. The Roman commander did not feel like he was good enough to have Jesus come to his house. He didn't even feel like he was good enough to come directly to Jesus, that's why he sent others to Jesus. And even though he felt unworthy, the Roman commander believed that Jesus could heal his servant.

The Roman commander instructed his friends to tell Jesus, "Just say the word and my servant will be healed." (Luke 7:7b NirV) You see, this Roman commander [centurion] knew what it was to have authority. Each Roman commander was generally in charge of 100 soldiers. When he ordered a soldier to go, he went. When he told a soldier to come, he came. He also knew about this in his own home. When the commander told a servant to do something, he did it. The Roman commander understood the authority (power) that Jesus had. That is why he said, "Just say the word and my servant will be healed." (Luke 7:7b NirV)

"When Jesus heard this, He was amazed. He said to those following Him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. In Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong." (Matthew 8:10 NirV) Jesus explained that many people would be in heaven one day, but those who think they belong because of their knowledge and long list of good deeds will not make it. Those with faith

### Application

How about you? Are you pleasing God with faith?

Think about your life. Do you spend your time doing a lot of good things, reading the Bible and religious books trying to learn more information hoping you will please God that way? God is not impressed by what we do. (Isaiah 64:6) A life like this is focused on YOU, not God. It's not about YOU!

Salvation, and a life lived for God, is all about HIM. It is about what He has done in sacrificing His one and only Son. So where do you come into that picture? By accepting, by faith, the gift of eternal life He offers. It's that simple. If that is something you want to do, let's talk in just a moment.

In thinking about your life, maybe it can be characterized by surrendering to God, trusting Him with all that happens and waiting on His timing for things. If that is the case, may the same be said for you that Jesus told the Roman commander, "I've not found anyone whose faith is so strong." (Mt 8:10) Don't get tired of doing good. (Galatians 6:9)

in Jesus Christ will be the ones to fill heaven.

"Then Jesus said to the Roman commander, 'Go! It will be done just as you have believed it would.' And his servant was healed at that very hour." (Matthew 8:13 NIV)

There seems to be a pattern in many of our lessons. Have you seen it? There are those who seem far away from God because they are not Jews. They are the ones who have faith, who believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that He has the power to heal. Then, there are the religious leaders. These men knew God's Word (Old Testament). They had studied it for years. They thought they belonged in heaven simply because they were Jews, God's chosen people. They had a problem, though. They failed to see that Jesus is God's Son. Many of them refused to believe it.

Being born into a certain family or a certain religion will not get you far with God. God offers salvation to everyone. As we saw last week, very few choose to follow Him in faith. To remind you of something we learned several weeks ago, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6)

The religious leaders were not pleasing God by knowing a lot of information about Him. They failed to see Jesus in all of that information. The Roman commander, on the other hand, pleased God with the strong faith that he had.

### Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus' Parable of the Sower



# Preschool Lesson

## Teachers:

Bring a picture of a Roman soldier and a map of Capernaum.

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Do you know what Jesus did after He came down from the mountain from teaching all the people we talked about in our last lesson? He went to the city of Capernaum. (Show Capernaum on the map.) A lot of people still followed Jesus.

There was a Roman commander who lived in Capernaum. He was an important man. He was in charge of 100 Roman soldiers. The Roman commander also had servants at home. He told people what to do and they did it. That's what it meant to be a commander and the owner of a house in charge of servants.

One of the Roman commander's servants was sick; he was about to die. This servant was very special to the Roman commander. When the Roman commander heard that Jesus was in town, he knew that Jesus could help him. He didn't think he was good enough to go to Jesus or to have Jesus in his house, though.

The Roman commander sent friends to talk to Jesus. They told Jesus about the servant. They told Jesus that the Roman commander knew that He was powerful. They asked Jesus, "Please just say the word. When you do, I know that my servant will be okay."

And he was right. Jesus could go to the Roman commander's house and heal the servant. He didn't have to, though. So Jesus told the men to go back to the commander's house. He believed that Jesus could heal his servant and that is exactly what happened!



## Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make eye masks like those used to block out light when sleeping. Print the memory verse on each mask.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring gold coins for the snack.
- Play “Simon Says.” Talk about the Roman commander’s authority over his soldiers and his servants. Talk about the faith he had in Jesus.
- Sing “Faith, Faith, Faith, Just a Little Bit of Faith,” “How Great is Our God,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Find Capernaum on a map of Israel.

# FAITH

is being sure of  
what we hope for.

It is being certain  
of what

we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Trace the letters.

JESUS

HELPED

PEOPLE

# Focus on the Story

○  
**Story Title:**

**Scripture References:**

**Main Characters:**

**Story Summary:**

When?

○  
Where?

What?

How?





# Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T S U R T G  
N N E A N W O N L T S O N O Y  
O G D V S H E H T O T A E R T  
W E H T I A F N E T E S T L I  
S D N I A T R E C G N I E B H  
S K L O W W H T H E I O I B N  
W H A T W E D O N O T S E E W  
E D A M O H E L M T E W O I S  
R O S A I O E H E Y N A H N E  
B D E T D P O E V O O N E G V  
E N G T S E R W A U U T V S E  
H S T H E F R O P H E T S U D  
V H D E R O P T E N L H I R L  
E Y S W A R P S T N D E D E W  
S O Y E U R W O R D R M W M B

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for.

It is being certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1



# Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T S U R T G  
N N E A N W O N L T S O N O Y  
O G D V S H E H T O T A E R T  
W E H T I A F N E T E S T L I  
S D N I A T R E C G N I E B H  
S K L O W W H T H E I O I B N  
W H A T W E D O N O T S E E W  
E D A M O H E L M T E W O I S  
R O S A I O E H E Y N A H N E  
B D E T D P O E V O O N E G V  
E N G T S E R W A U U T V S E  
H S T H E F R O P H E T S U D  
V H D E R O P T E N L H I R L  
E Y S W A R P S T N D E D E W  
S O Y E U R W O R D R M W M B

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for.

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Hebrews 11:1



# Preschool Word Search

R F I J E S U S E R E D  
T A X C O L L E C T O R  
H A S E R V A N T E W S  
R I V A N H E A L E D S  
J L A O L I V F N Y L S  
Q J E S U R O M A N E O  
R T O R E I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H E W O R D U S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S T O R Y O R B N  
L C O M M A N D E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

ROMAN

COMMANDER

SERVANT

SAY THE WORD

HEALED



# Preschool Word Search

R F I **J E S U S** E R E D  
T A X C O L L E C T O R  
H A **S E R V A N T** E W S  
R I V A N **H E A L E D** S  
J L A O L I V F N Y L S  
Q J E S U **R O M A N** E O  
R T O R E I V E N M R E  
**S A Y T H E W O R D** U S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S T O R Y O R B N  
L **C O M M A N D E R** S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

ROMAN

COMMANDER

SERVANT

SAY THE WORD

HEALED